## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN NORTHERN DIVISION

R. ALEXANDER ACOSTA,	)	
Secretary of Labor,	)	
United States Department of Labor,	)	
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	Civil action no.: 17-cv-12321
v.	)	
	)	Legal and equitable relief sough
PINE RIVER HEALTHCARE, LLC	)	
d/b/a Pine River Healthcare Center,	)	
	)	
Defendant.	)	

## **COMPLAINT**

Plaintiff, **R. ALEXANDER ACOSTA**, Secretary of Labor, United States Department of Labor, brings this action to enjoin and restrain Defendant, **PINE RIVER HEALTHCARE**, **LLC d/b/a PINE RIVER HEALTHCARE CENTER**, a limited liability company, (hereinafter "Pine River Healthcare, LLC"), from violating the provisions of section 105 of the Family Medical Leave Act of 1993, (29 U.S.C. § 2601 et seq.)(hereinafter "FMLA" or "the Act"), pursuant to section 107(d) of the Act.

I

Jurisdiction of this action is conferred upon the court by section 107(d) of the Act and by 28 U.S.C. § 1345.

II

Defendant, **PINE RIVER HEALTHCARE, LLC**, is and, at all times hereinafter mentioned, was a Michigan limited liability company with an office and place of business at 1149 W. Monroe Road, Saint Louis, MI 48880, in Gratiot County, within the jurisdiction of this

court, and is, and at all times hereinafter mentioned, was engaged in the operation of a residential care nursing home.

III

Defendant is and, at all times hereinafter mentioned, was engaged in commerce or in an industry or activity affecting commerce and employed 50 or more employees for each working day during each of 20 or more calendar workweeks in the current or preceding calendar year and is an employer within the meaning of section 101(4) of the Act.

IV

Since July 2015, Defendant, an employer subject to the provisions of the Act, violated the provisions of section 105(a)(1) of the Act, in that it interfered with, restrained, or denied employees the exercise of rights provided under the Act when it acquired knowledge that employees' leave may have been for FMLA-qualifying reasons and failed to notify those employees accordingly. Defendant further failed to provide employees with FMLA notices of eligibility and rights and responsibilities. Because employees were not afforded the opportunity to take job-protected FMLA leave, they received attendance points and discipline for absences that were FMLA-qualifying.

 $\mathbf{V}$ 

All employees affected by the violations alleged in Paragraph IV herein were employed by Defendant for at least 12 months and had performed at least 1,250 hours of service with Defendant during the previous twelve-month period. At the time of said requests, each employee had not taken 12 weeks of leave in a 12-month period and was entitled to leave as provided under section 102(a) of the Act.

VI

**WHEREFORE**, cause having been shown, Plaintiff prays for judgment against Defendant as follows:

- A. For an Order, pursuant to section 107(d), permanently enjoining and restraining Defendant, their officers, agents, servants, employees, successors-in-interest, and those persons in active concert or participation with Defendant, who receive actual notice of such judgment, from prospectively violating the provisions of section 105 of the Act; and
- B. For an Order granting such other further legal or equitable relief as may be deemed necessary and appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

**Local Counsel:** 

**DANIEL L. LEMISCH**Acting United States Attorney

/s/ Peter A. Caplan

**PETER A. CAPLAN**Assistant United States Attorney (P30643)

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## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that a copy of the foregoing **COMPLAINT** has been served on the below-named individual this 17<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2017, by sending said copy by certified mail, with a courtesy copy by email, to:

Jennifer L. Watson, Esq.
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/s/ Catherine L. Seidelman

CATHERINE L. SEIDELMAN

Trial Attorney

United States Department of Labor One of the Attorneys for Complainant